



Teenage volunteers from the National Charity League will again serve all-you-can-eat crab, pasta, salad and bread at the March 17 crab feed benefiting Yolo Crisis Nursery. In this 2016 photo, Alexis Soloaga delivers more lemon wedges to her assigned table.

Nursery's benefit crab feed: All it's cracked up to be and more

Crab season is open in California. And like many nonprofits, the Yolo Crisis Nursery is planning our annual fundraising crab feed. What makes our event special and worthy of your time and money?

We'll answer that, but first, the bare facts: The 5th Annual "Krustaceans for Kids" Crab Feed will be held March 17 at the Woodland Community and Senior Center, 2001 East St. Doors open at 6 p.m. for a no-host bar. A sit-down dinner of all-you-can-eat cracked crab is served at 7 p.m. Tickets cost \$45 at www.yolocrisisnursery.org.

So, what distinguishes our event from all the crab feeds is, quite simply, the cause. All proceeds support the crisis nursery's mission of providing early intervention services to nurture healthy and resilient children, strengthen parents, and preserve families. The crab feed is the nursery's major benefit event of the year.

"By attending our crab feed, you help protect our county's youngest, most vulnerable children and support our at-risk families," said Nancy Storm, co-president of the auxiliary group that's organizing the event, the Friends of the Yolo Crisis Nursery. "Plus, this event is always a whole lot of fun. You won't want to miss it."

The group is busy selling individual tickets and sponsorships as well, with Sutter Health again signing on as Premier Event Sponsor. Sponsorships, which come with complimentary tickets, are a great way to entertain friends, family and business associates.

This year, the Friends have enhanced the benefits for sponsors, particularly at the King Crab (\$2,500) level. One special opportunity: for King Crab sponsors who sign on by Tuesday (Feb. 1): we'll print their logo on a postcard we'll be mailing soon.

Sponsorships are a great way to entertain business associates, friends and .

Sponsorships can be purchased beginning at \$500 at www.yolocrisisnursery.org.

Following are questions and answers about the event:

I've never been to a big crab feed. What's it like?

We can't speak for all of them, but at ours, get ready for a good time. As you enter, we'll direct you to our no-host Wine and Beer Bar. (We take credit cards and checks, but cash is quickest.)

With a drink in hand, you can chat with friends. Or check out the Silent Auction and Raffle tables. Maybe visit the Social Media Photo Station (fun props available) and get goofy.

We'll have the dinner tables set for the feast. You'll find a bib at every place setting. Volunteer servers will bring platters of cracked crab to your table, along with bowls of pasta with red sauce, Caesar salad plus bread. We'll have plenty of melted butter, cocktail sauce and lemons at hand.

Don't be shy about asking for more food. It's all-you-can-eat, after all.

During dinner, you can visit the Wine and Beer Bar to replenish your drinks. Volunteer bartenders will be standing by.

As dinner ends, we'll begin a fast-paced live auction of unique desserts. The ebullient Dr. John Chuck will reprise his role as auctioneer. If you're one of the winning bidders, you can enjoy your dessert at your table or take it home. Last year, Realtor Kim Eichorn's famous carrot cake sold for \$760 and quickly disappeared at the winner's table.

We'll finish up by announcing raffle winners and conducting a brief live auction of our biggest and best auction items.

You'll go home with a full belly and, if you're lucky, an item you've won in an auction or raffle. You can also go home with the knowledge that your participation (i.e. your dollars spent) ensures the continuation of the Yolo Crisis Nursery's proven programs for at-risk children and families in our county.

I went last year. Is anything new about this year's event?

Yes, the location. We outgrew the Veterans Memorial Center in Davis, so we're moving a few miles north to the Woodland Community & Senior Center. It's much newer and

bigger. The bar, auction and raffle tables, and dining tables will all be in one big room, with space leftover to move about. Also, there is plenty of well-lit and secure parking. If you haven't been to this facility before, you'll be impressed by what you find.

Are children invited?

This is more a leave-the-kids-with-a-babysitter-and-enjoy-yourself kind of evening.

Will I have to wear the crab bib?

No, you will be free to be as messy as you like.

This year's crab feed is on St. Patrick's Day. Will you have green beer?

Maybe!

Will there be any long, boring speeches?

No, no and no.

Will the evening be lively and fun?

Yes, yes and yes.

We look forward to seeing you at the event. For more information, please email friends@yolocrisisnursery.org or phone Karen Adams at (530) 220-4733.